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WEST BRIDGFORD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1952

together with the
REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Health Department,
The Hall,
WEST BRIDGFORD,
Nottingham.

October, 1953.

WEST BRIDGFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1952)

Chairman:- Councillor Mrs CORA JAMES

Chairman of the Council:- Councillor S. H. TURNER, J.P.

Councillors:-

W. BRALESFORD

J. E. H. MASON

A. C. FLEWITT, J.P.

R. H. TRUMAN, C.C.

A. L. HEASON, A.I.E.E., M.I.E.C.

G. C. WOODRUFF

P. A. IZZETT, J.P.

Mrs I. M. WOOLRICH

P. O. KIRKBY

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

W. B. WATSON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

C. WEBB, Cert. R.S.I & S.I.E.J.B.
Cert. Meat & other Foods Insp.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

B. J. BUCKINGHAM, Cert. R.S.I.,
& S.I.E.J.B.

Rodent Officer


F. C. QUINN

Clerk/Typist

Miss E. DEFRIES

Engineer and Surveyor

R. DEWSBERRY, M.I.M. & Cy.E.,
A.M.T.P.I.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF WEST BRIDGFORD
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1952

To:
The Chairman and Members of the
West Bridgford Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1952 along with the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The year was again a quiet one. Our comparative freedom from fresh legislation continued. The reaction to the revolutionery measures of the immediate post-war years persists but has been less manifest. Everyone recognises the difficulty of effecting improvements without starting afresh and at present that would be impossible. Refuge is sought in the prospect of a change in the set-up of local government. This would supply the opportunity to introduce alterations which experience has shown to be necessary. But inspiration is lacking. So far the many proposals that have been made have not really pleased anybody; indeed their sponsors cannot have put them forward with any conviction or enthusiasm. It is a wise rule when clear vision is denied us to proceed gradually, discarding what is accepted as out-worn and trying replacements cautiously. One of the evils of centralisation is the loss of the old and commendable practice of allowing local authorities to formulate fresh ideas and try them out locally, often in rivalry with other authorities.

In April the boundary of the Urban District was altered, with a resulting change in population. These changes are the despair of the statistician, who likes to have a fixed area when he is recording for comparison, year by year, the changes in the vital statistics. However, if the data are overlooked and only the rates considered the fact of a change of area should not be apparent.

The coming into force of the Nottinghamshire County Council Act of 1951 led to the bringing within the sphere of this Council the licensing of premises used for massage and similar treatment. The co-operation of the local practitioners of these forms of treatment was readily obtained and no difficulties were encountered.

In the field of epidemiology another rise in the incidence of Measles was the chief feature. The behaviour of this disease just now is presenting a good deal of interest. During the war it lost its periodic beat and we thought that the movements of the people were the cause but the former two year rhythm has not returned; we are seldom entirely free from the disease, and epidemic incidence occurs more frequently. From the purely medical point of view a postponement of measles till a child is five is acceptable but it plays havoc with school attendance. In West Bridgford, in the past, most of the victims were new school entrants. Now, if the disease is really altering its habits in the way I have indicated, it is likely that children will have "got it over" before they start school. A convenient arrangement would be for it to occur in the fifth year. This would still be a fairly safe age and it would not affect school attendance. We certainly do not want it to become common in babies.

Poliomyelitis continues to cause anxiety, much of it hidden, throughout the country, and indeed throughout the world. We had another year free from fatalities and with only two cases notified, both in adults. One was a "late case" with little to show; in the other case the resulting paralysis was moderately severe.

In October, 1952, after a long period of preparation and warning, the retailing within the district of undesignated milk became illegal. Public opinion seems to have been educated up to this important change for there was little or no comment. Most people now know the dangers of an uncontrolled milk supply. If they do not the revelations of sampling authorities are available as evidence.

I am indebted to my colleagues for their help and co-operation and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, I acknowledge my appreciation of your unfailing courtesy and interest.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Wm. B. Watson

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

| | |
|---|--|
| Area of District | 3,045 acres (after alteration of boundary) |
| Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1952 | 23,150 " " |
| Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.52 | 7,615 |
| Rateable value at 28.11.52 | £212,713 |
| Product of penny rate per annum (1952) | £865 |

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Live Births | 300 | 154 | 146 |
| Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.) | 12.9 (Eng. and Wales 15.3) | | |

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Deaths | 291 | 157 | 134 |
| Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.) | 12.6 (Eng. and Wales 11.3) | | |
| Corrected Death Rate | 10.3 | | |
| Death Rate of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births) | 26.6 (Eng. and Wales 27.6) | | |
| There was one maternal death. | | | |

| Live Births | | | Deaths | | | | | Infant Mortality | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Year | Total Number | Rate per 1,000 Population | England and Wales | Total Number | Crude rate per 1,000 population | Corrected Rate | England and Wales | Rate per 1,000 live births | England and Wales | Population |
| 1938 | 202 | 9.5 | 15.1 | 237 | 11.2 | 10.3 | 11.6 | 54 | 53 | 21,150 |
| 1939 | 196 | 9.2 | 15.0 | 266 | 12.4 | - | 12.1 | 15 | 50 | 21,340 |
| 1940 | 228 | 10.1 | 14.6 | 272 | 12.1 | - | 14.3 | 35 | 55 | 22,490 |
| 1941 | 218 | 9.4 | 14.2 | 329 | 14.3 | - | 12.9 | 62 | 59 | 23,060 |
| 1942 | 277 | 12.5 | 15.8 | 242 | 10.9 | - | 11.6 | 11 | 49 | 22,160 |
| 1943 | 298 | 13.8 | 16.5 | 295 | 13.2 | - | 12.1 | 44 | 49 | 21,530 |
| 1944 | 376 | 17.1 | 17.6 | 258 | 11.7 | - | 11.6 | 40 | 46 | 22,000 |
| 1945 | 319 | 14.5 | 16.1 | 265 | 12.1 | - | 11.4 | 38 | 46 | 21,970 |
| 1946 | 347 | 15 | 19.1 | 252 | 10.9 | - | 11.5 | 17 | 43 | 23,110 |
| 1947 | 368 | 15.6 | 20.5 | 295 | 12.5 | - | 12.0 | 27 | 41 | 23,560 |
| 1948 | 353 | 14.6 | 17.9 | 271 | 11.2 | - | 10.8 | 28 | 34 | 24,190 |
| 1949 | 328 | 13.4 | 16.7 | 325 | 13.3 | 11.0 | 11.7 | 30 | 32 | 24,420 |
| 1950 | 318 | 13.0 | 15.8 | 295 | 12.0 | 10.0 | 11.6 | 22 | 30 | 24,600 |
| 1951 | 332 | 13.4 | 15.5 | 335 | 13.5 | 11.1 | 12.5 | 18 | 29.6 | 24,780 |
| 1952* | 300 | 12.9 | 15.3 | 291 | 12.5 | 10.25 | 11.3 | 26.6 | 27.6 | 23,150 |

* Alteration of boundary.

The above table presents for comparison some of the Vital Statistics of the District and of England and Wales for the past 15 years.

POPULATION

If the table on page 4 is consulted, it will be noticed that hitherto, with the exception of the war years, an increase of population has been recorded in each of the 14 years included in the table. For 1952 the figure shows a reduction - apart from that due to the loss of Wilford. I have no explanation to offer for this and it would be a difficult moment to argue about the accuracy of the figures when there is this complicating factor of a change of area. Of course, the reduction would not have been apparent had not a figure been made known (compiled from the census figures of 1951) for the loss of population arising out of the change of boundary. We have the choice offered us of believing that the figure for Wilford (1,467) was wrong, or that West Bridgford as now constituted has lost 163 inhabitants, or, a third alternative, that the discrepancy is in some unknown proportion divided between these two possibilities.

No local government administrator, elected or appointed, likes to see his population dwindling, even although a continuance of the process would seem to offer an easy solution of the housing problem. But the Registrar-General has a way of restoring these unexpected losses and I am sure we shall find the loss more than made good in next year's estimate. So far as the birth and death rates are concerned, the effect of the unexpected drop is trifling - about 0.1.

BIRTH RATE

There can be no doubt now about the persistence of the fall in the birth rate from the peak reached in 1947. The national rate has almost reached pre-war level, but there is still hope for West Bridgford. Perhaps the Council's provision of attractive houses for young married people helps to keep them within the district.

DEATH RATE

Nothing occurred locally to affect the death rate adversely. It will be noticed that it recovered after the high record of the previous year. The national rate was low, too, being unaffected materially by the meteorological or atmospheric phenomenon experienced during December. Even the death rate for London does not reveal what at the time was an alarming increase in mortality. The sensational rise in the number of deaths attributed in part to the toxic fog, occurred over a period of only two or three weeks, the week ending 13th December being the worst, and owing to London's large figure of population the effect on the annual death rate was very small.

These inversions of atmospheric temperatures which make such toxic fogs possible are always liable to occur and they are beyond the control of man but they are only one of the two factors necessary to cause a disastrous effect on the health of the people (besides the carrying off of the more susceptible persons, thousands were affected in some degree short of fatality) the other being, of course, the presence of poisonous gases and particles in the atmosphere. After a disaster like this we tend to settle down into complacency again but this experience did arouse real alarm, with a realisation that "smoke abatement" is not a fad. The way we should all look at it is that we are all the time discharging these poisons into the atmosphere and, by inhaling them,

DEATH RATE (continued)

affecting our health adversely to some indefinable extent. As with all disasters contributed to by man's culpable indifference, if this one serves to make the pursuit of smoke abatement a live issue it will have done some ultimate good.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

No action under this statute (relating to the compulsory removal of an uncared-for person) became necessary during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

The supply (from the Nottingham Corporation) has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. No samples are taken by this authority.

All the houses in the district are connected to the mains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The time-consuming discussions with the Bingham Rural District Council, initiated at the request of the Ministry, with a view to the possible construction of sewage disposal works to serve both West Bridgford and part of the area of the Bingham Rural District Council, came to an end with the withdrawal of the Rural Council, who were faced with the urgent necessity of dealing with sewage from new housing estates, without waiting either for the approval of their original scheme for the western part of their district or for the emergence of some joint scheme which might be looked on with favour by the Ministry. And so, much time has been lost - but of this we cannot be sure for approval of sewerage schemes has been difficult to get and acceptance of a scheme in principle would not necessarily have meant authority to proceed.

Until an alternative scheme receives approval the day to day "make do and mend" procedure must continue.

The work of flood prevention goes forward in a steady and comforting fashion, its sponsors the envy of all whose work is preventive in nature but who are denied such an opportunity of eliciting public approbation. It is work which, one presumes, can only be effective on completion and, therefore, the race against possibilities is watched with mild excitement. After the work is completed, a rise of the river to flood level will create in us conflicting feelings: a dread, born of past experience, and a natural desire to see the defences put to the proof.

How many people fully appreciate the damage done in West Bridgford by the flood of 1947? The water seems not only to have caused to the brickwork damage which is permanent, but to have initiated a continuing process of rising dampness which it would be next to impossible to stop on such a large scale. It is a source of present worry to occupiers but its deteriorative effect on property may not be fully appreciated by owners until the present fictitious value of house property disappears.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council, in common with many other Councils, have adopted controlled tipping as their chief method of disposal of refuse. Their abandonment of incineration, the cost of which in maintenance of plant had become excessive, more or less coincided with the occurrence of extensive mining subsidence which had resulted in permanent flooding of low-lying land. It was natural that the opportunity presented by such a coincidence of events should be taken advantage of and, consequently, there is under way an appreciable scheme of land reclamation. But the tipping of refuse, however well controlled, is something the public have yet to become used to and complaints are received, sometimes entirely on principle, without any specific complaint of nuisance. The ideal method of refuse disposal has not yet been invented. High costs rule out some of those which are more acceptable on other grounds. As regards the comparison between incineration and tipping, it must be pointed out that the best of destructors discharges into the atmosphere large quantities of dust and gases, an offence as great as any attributable to tipping but less obvious to the ordinary observer. At a time when the evils of atmospheric pollution are receiving the recognition they deserve there need be no regret about the abolition of the destructor flue.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for the following figures :-

Housing Accommodation completed during 1952

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Number of Permanent Traditional Houses erected by Local Authority | = | 94 |
| Number of Permanent Traditional Houses erected by Private Enterprise | = | 42 |
| Number of Conversions to Flats (number of family units) | = | 38 |

In my last Report regret had to be expressed at the small number of houses completed during the year (1951). For 1952 a satisfactory figure reappears and, indeed, if one compares the figure representing total family units made available in 1952 with that for 1950 (the year of highest attainment in local authority house building in West Bridgford), 1952 surpasses 1950 by six units.

Since the war the Council have erected 479 permanent and 81 temporary houses. They have been able to turn to the provision of smaller units - at the end of 1952 they had provided 116 two-bedroom flats and 20 permanent two-bedroom bungalows.

But still the need goes on, as inevitably it will in a district to which people will be attracted from other areas.

There are no areas for clearance in the district but I must endorse what the Chief Sanitary Inspector states in his Report, and emphasise that the level of maintenance of house property is low, due to the disproportion between rents and cost of repairs; that the big burden of dilapidation is steadily mounting; and that this dissipation of a valuable *national* asset is truly deplorable.

FOOD AND FOOD POISONING

No notifications of food poisoning were received during the year. Doubtless many people suffered minor upsets but we were spared outbreaks such as are frequently reported in the press. The risk is always present and conscientious habits on the part of food handlers are required to safeguard the public. We know that no one would be likely to run the risk a second time of being identified as the originator of an outbreak of food-poisoning but the avoidance of that important first time calls for an appreciation of preventive measures which continued freedom from trouble is apt to weaken.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the incidence, etc., of the notifiable infectious diseases during the year :-

1952

| Disease | Notifications | Isolated in Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever | 46 | 4 | - |
| Whooping Cough | 51 | - | - |
| Measles | 229 | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 3 | - | 8* |
| Poliomyelitis | 2 | 1 | - |
| Erysipelas | 3 | - | - |
| | 334 | 5 | 9 |

* The deaths registered as due to pneumonia bear no relationship to those notified. The notification of only three cases of pneumonia in a year demonstrates the prevailing failure to notify, and the recording at the same time of 8 deaths from the same disease emphasises it.

Comments on the incidence of infectious disease have already been made in the introduction to this Report.

In considering local incidence one must remember that there are some infectious diseases - for example, mumps, chickenpox, influenza - which are not notifiable and therefore only known to the Medical Officer of Health through casual sources of information. But with regard to diseases which are notifiable, it must be stated that the position is not as different as it ought to be, for notification is very unsatisfactory and, indeed, seems to be growing worse. Time was when one could - and did - in response to enquiry from the Ministry of Health, state in one's Annual Report that notification was satisfactory but that was before measles and whooping cough became notifiable. The private practitioners probably feel that there is no practical outcome of the notification of these two diseases and, in consequence, tend to forget about it, or to think that delay in notification

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (continued)

does not matter. Admittedly one of the reasons for the introduction of notification in respect of these two diseases does not now operate to nearly the same extent as it did prior to the introduction of the National Health Service (this was, that in cases where parents had not called in a doctor the health visitor was enabled to call and give advice on the handling and nursing of patients and to warn parents of the potential dangers) but a great deal of useful research has been done statistically since notification was introduced. So much so that notification has been continued after medical advice has become freely available. So long as notification is in force it should be observed, for incomplete notification may be worse than useless, it may mislead. Any laxness of notification in respect of one or two diseases is apt to affect the notification of other infectious diseases. However, good may come out of the present unsatisfactory state of notification for it has led to the review of the whole question. Editorial comment in the medical journals tends to be detached and philosophical and to increase the tendency to look on notification as a matter of personal choice, to be aligned with one's attitude in general towards observances which are legally compulsory but conventionally optional. Anyone can realise that the more that is known about the incidence of diseases of all kinds the more reliable and productive will be the work of the epidemiologist, who is concerned with much more than work "in the field", and the statistician, in spite of all that is said in jest about statistics, has established a claim to recognition for his valuable work in the study of disease. He would like to have reliable figures about the incidence of all diseases but the difficulty is to get them without imposing an intolerable burden on the clinician, or appearing to be too inquisitive.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

There have been no notifications of diphtheria in this Urban District since 1947. It remains to be seen whether this wonderful immunity will lull people into a sense of security which will cause them to neglect immunisation. If it does it will not be the fault of the Local Health Authority who, in common with other Authorities, including the Ministry of Health, continues to emphasise the need for immunisation. If the people grow indifferent and thus offer their children as material for experiment we shall have a chance to see whether there is any justification for the opinion sometimes expressed that the disease is disappearing of itself. But no one whose knowledge entitles him to assume authority and responsibility is in favour of relaxing the national effort. Indeed all districts are not so fortunate as this one, for some have had outbreaks of diphtheria affecting, of course, both in numbers and in severity, preponderantly the unimmunised.

I give below an extract from the article on diphtheria in the current issue of the MEDICAL ANNUAL, written by Dr. Bradley of the Ministry of Health. He is referring to an outbreak of diphtheria in 1951 in an urban district of about 30,000 population.

"The story in the case of one of the children who died emphasises the dangers of complacency. This eight-year-old was the baby of eight children. All the others had been immunised, but, despite advocacy by health visitors four times in 1947 and again in the autumn of 1951, the parents declined offers of protection. This child took ill on December 2nd and

IMMUNISATION IN WEST BRIDGFORD

1947 = 1.952

| 1947 = 1.952 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------|------------------|------------|------|------------------|------------|------|------------------|--------|--|
| YEAR | Local Authority | | | Private | | | Total | | | Totals | Under 5's as Percentage of previous year's births |
| | Under 5 | 5-15 | Rein- forcing | Under 5 | 5-15 | Rein- forcing | Under 5 | 5-15 | Rein- forcing | | |
| 1947 | 183 | 25 | 68 | - | - | - | 183 | 25 | 68 | 276 | 53+ |
| 1948 | 218 | 14 | 122 | - | - | - | 218 | 14 | 122 | 354 | 59+ |
| 1949 | 195 | 15 | 149 | 94 | 2 | 20 | 289 | 17 | 169 | 475 | 82 |
| 1950 | 137 | 11 | 195 | 93 | 1 | 22 | 230 | 12 | 217 | 459 | 70 |
| 1951 | 157 | 13 | 216 | 136 | 3 | 74 | 293 | 16 | 290 | 599 | 92 |
| 1952 | 85 | 6 | 172 | 176 | 3 | 88 | 261 | 9 | 260 | 530 | 78 |

+ Calculated only on local authority figures.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Continued)

died five days later. All others in the family escaped infection".

I said last year that I would not continue the table showing the numbers immunised but, in spite of its inaccuracy, I have thought it proper to continue it and therefore it appears (Page 10.) The inaccuracies are not sufficient to invalidate the revelation that the public are less responsive than they were - to the extent of 35 fewer babies immunised last year than in the previous year. The loss of Wilford does not account for this reduction. If the recording of these figures serves to inform the individual parent that he or she is not the only one "taking a chance" and, perhaps, relying on a general high level of immunisation to keep down the disease, it will have served a purpose. But it is doubtful if the defaulting parent gives the matter such serious consideration.

It is interesting to notice that the private doctor is outstripping the public doctor in the number of babies he immunises but that many of the children he has immunised in infancy come to the public ^{clinic} for their reinforcing injections at four or five years of age. This tends to give the clinic doctor the impression that more children have reinforcing injections than primary ones, which, of course, is absurd.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases on the register at the end of 1952 was slightly lower than at the end of 1951 but if the Wilford cases had been included it would have been slightly higher. It is comforting to find that the alarming rise experienced in 1950, and in lesser degree in 1951, has not continued. Thus the national trend is reflected locally.

Optimism still prevails with regard to the future of tuberculosis but there is no room for complacency. Especially must we avoid relying too much on the advance of curative measures. This advance is a tremendous comfort for the patient but he would not have needed such comfort if he had been protected from infection - not by vaccines but by the whole-hearted application of epidemiological methods. It is difficult to justify the discrepancy that exists between the control of tuberculosis and the control of other infectious diseases. It is a relic of the old days of the "hush hush" policy.

Steady progress is being made in the conquest of tuberculosis derived from milk and, as I have mentioned in my introductory remarks, the coming into force locally (in November, 1952) of the Order prohibiting the retail sale of undesignated milk was a big step forward, even although practice had to a large extent preceded it. The elimination of tuberculosis from dairy herds, for long looked upon as an impossible task, is now within sight. We actually have one or two island areas (which are more easily brought under control) with a hundred per cent attested cattle. Some of the mainland areas have reached a percentage well over 90, and over most of the country progress is steady. There are, as always, black spots. While Nottinghamshire is not the lowest, its figure is not good - 17.1 per cent, compared with 32.7 for England as a whole. Wales has 59.8 and Scotland (where at one time the position was extremely bad) 58.1. All these figures represent the position at the end of 1952. It is specially gratifying to find this intensive effort to cut off bovine infection at the source continuing

TUBERCULOSIS (Continued)

in spite of the safe-guard provided by pasteurisation, the opponents of which said, as one of their arguments, that it would lead to the acceptance of tuberculosis in cows as something which need not worry us when we could destroy the germ in the milk by pasteurisation.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 14 | 47 | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 72 | 142 | 1 | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) | 7 | 7 | - | - |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | 93 | 196 | 1 | - |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| PARTICULARS | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|------------------|----------|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. | by Insp. |
| Sanitary Conveniences(S.7) | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | 1 | - | 1 |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | - | 1 |

PART VII OF THE ACT OUTWORK

| <u>Nature of Work</u> | <u>No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c)</u> |
|------------------------------|--|
| Wearing apparel, making etc. | 29 |
| Lace, lace curtains and nets | 17 |
| Carding etc. of buttons etc. | 2 |
| (12) | <u>Total = 46</u> |

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the
West Bridgford Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report for the year 1952.

The following is a list of the inspections and re-inspec-
tions made during the year:-

| | <u>Inspections</u> | <u>Re-inspections</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Notifiable Diseases | 35 | 9 |
| Sanitary Defects | 171 | 384 |
| Housing Defects | 132 | 695 |
| Dirty Houses | 2 | - |
| Overcrowded Houses | 2 | - |
| Dustbins | 240 | 176 |
| Shops | 16 | - |
| Factories (with power) | 117 | - |
| Factories (without power) | 47 | - |
| Bakehouses | 23 | 1 |
| Laundries | 2 | - |
| Outworkers premises | 40 | - |
| Smoke observations | 16 | 4 |
| Drainage defects | 323 | 270 |
| Swine, fowls and other animals | 24 | - |
| Water supply | 5 | - |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | 10 | - |
| Offensive odours | 35 | - |
| Petroleum installations | 77 | - |
| Miscellaneous | 443 | - |
| Insect infestations | 52 | - |
| Owners, etc, interviewed | 175 | - |
| Food inspections | 21 | - |
| Restaurants | 39 | - |
| Meat shops | 115 | - |
| General food shops | 155 | - |
| Fruit and vegetable shops | 81 | - |
| Fish shops | 49 | - |
| Fried fish shops | 25 | - |
| Ice cream premises | 86 | - |
| Dairies, etc. | 110 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals = | 2,668 | 1,539 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

COMPLAINTS

During the year the following 557 complaints were received and dealt with:-

| | |
|--|-----|
| General defects | 124 |
| Dustbins | 208 |
| Dirty houses | 2 |
| Drainage defects | 150 |
| Nuisance from pigs, fowls and keeping of animals | 3 |
| Deposits of refuse | 4 |
| Insect infestations | 34 |
| Offensive odours | 17 |
| Smoke nuisance | 12 |
| Re Food supplies | 2 |
| Cesspools | 1 |

557

NOTICES

The following table gives details of notices served and complied with during the year:-

| | <u>Notices Served</u> | <u>Notices complied with</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Public Health Act (Preliminary) | 135 | 117 |
| Housing Act (do) | 49 | 41 |
| Public Health Act (Dustbins) | 111 | 87 |
| | (By owners) | 70 |
| | (By Council) | |
| Public Health Act (Statutory) | 2 | 5 |
| " " " (Stat.drainage) | 9 | 9 |
| Housing Act (Statutory) | 7 | 4 |
| Factories Act | 1 | 1 |
| Food Byelaws | 1 | 1 |
| Verbal | 5 | 8 |
| | <hr/> 320 <hr/> | <hr/> 343 <hr/> |

RODENT CONTROL

The Council are still in receipt of a 50% grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for this work with the exception of that carried out at business premises for which a small charge is made.

During the year 281 complaints of infestations were received and dealt with, the operator making 1,732 visits including 136 surveys of the properties other than those complained of and 498 rat bodies and 333 mice bodies were recovered after treatment. On premises where "gassing" was carried out and "spoon baiting" of runs etc., it was not possible to recover all the bodies so that the total number of rodents destroyed will be in excess of the above figures.

A percentage of the sewers in the district were test baited during the year with negative results.

HOUSING

Although there has been an increase in the numbers of new houses built during the year, both by the Council and private enterprise the rate of delapidation of the older houses has not been checked to any noticeable extent. A review of and considerable changes in the Rent Restrictions Acts are long overdue. Houses will continue to deteriorate until private owners are allowed a reasonable addition to the rent to be spent on repairs. Objections to this course on grounds of "profiteering" could be met by the issue of a certificate by the local authority health department to the effect that the house was in all respects fit for human habitation. Such a certificate to be obtained before the rent increase was permitted and subject to withdrawal if the property was allowed to fall below a reasonable standard.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year one factory in the district installed a new boiler with an automatic feed and this abated a smoke nuisance which had previously occurred from time to time.

A deposit gauge for the measuring of deposited matter has been installed at the Council Depot and recordings were taken from the month of May. Extracts from the Analyst's report are given below:-

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>MONTHLY DEPOSIT</u> | | |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Water insoluble matter | Water soluble matter | Total deposit in tons per square mile |
| May | 10.52 | 9.09 | 19.61 |
| June | 7.50 | 4.01 | 11.52 |
| July | 11.09 | 2.97 | 14.06 |
| August | 10.78 | 4.59 | 15.37 |
| September | 9.63 | 3.88 | 13.51 |
| October | 7.32 | 6.06 | 13.38 |
| November | 7.11 | 5.43 | 12.54 |
| December | 11.75 | 12.98 | 24.73 |

These results compare satisfactorily with those from similar districts in other parts of the country but should not on this account be viewed complacently. The above table shows that on average $75\frac{1}{2}$ tons of soot, grit, etc., are deposited on West Bridgford every month or over 900 tons per year. This cannot be blamed entirely on to industry as during the colder months when household fires are in constant use the rate of deposit is considerably increased.

MILK

At the end of the year the register showed that there are 9 dairies and 24 distributors of milk in the district.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 consisted of 17 dealers licences and 5 supplementary licences for the sale of Pasteurised milk, 9 dealers licences and 3 supplementary licences for the sale of sterilized milk and 11 dealers licences and 5 supplementary licences for the sale of tuberculin tested milk. Supplementary licences are issued to dealers whose business premises are outside this area and who have been issued with dealers licences by other authorities.

The production of milk on farms is now under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who operate through the County Agricultural Executive Committee. The production of Pasteurised and Sterilized milk is under the control of the County Council.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952 came into operation in this area on 1st November, 1952. This Order forbids the sale of raw milk by retail and only milk entitled to a "Special Designation" (i.e. Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, Sterilized, or combinations of these terms and accredited from a single herd for a limited time only) are obtainable on retail sale.

During the year 107 samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis comprising 7 Tuberculin tested, 34 Tuberculin tested pasteurised, 47 Pasteurised, 18 Sterilized and 1 raw milk.

Two Tuberculin tested pasteurised and two pasteurised milks failed to pass the methylene blue test but the analyst remarked that the shade temperature at the time these samples were taken was above 65°F a temperature above which the Methylene blue test becomes unreliable.

Two pasteurised milks failed the Phosphatase test. The dairy, the local authority and the appropriate ministerial departments were notified. Subsequent samples were satisfactory. This dairy business has now been sold.

ICE CREAM

There are now no local manufacturers of ice cream, all supplies coming from outside the area. Checks are made on retailers premises and 10 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, these were graded 8 in Grade I, 1 in Grade II, and 1 in Grade III.

FOOD

The food shops in the district are quite satisfactory. It has not been necessary to condemn any meat offered for sale. The meat sold in this district is obtained from the Nottingham abattoir where it is inspected by the City Sanitary Inspectors.

FOOD (Continued)

Regular visits are paid to cafes and other food preparing premises and advice and instruction is given where necessary.

The Council has adopted the Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Food relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air. It has not been found necessary to take any action under these Byelaws.

The following items of food were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers when found to be unfit for food:-

| | | | |
|--|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Luncheon Meat | 4 lbs | | Decomposed (Tin?) |
| Pork Luncheon Meat | | 12 ozs | Blown |
| Pork Luncheon Meat | 8 lbs | | Decomposing |
| Pork Butts | 3 lbs | 3 ozs | Decomposed |
| Minced Meat Loaf | | 12 ozs | Decomposed |
| Selected Portion - cooked ham. | 1 lb | 14 ozs | Blown |
| Cooked Shoulder Ham | 1 lb | 14 ozs | Decomposed |
| Cooked Gammon Ham | 9 lbs | 8 ozs | Blown & Decomposed |
| Picnic Shoulder Ham | 1 lb | 14 ozs | Mould growth on ham when emptied |
| Cooked Boneless Ham | 1 lb | 13 ozs | Decomposed - sour |
| Gammon (Bacon) | 12 lbs | 2 ozs | Decomposing |
| Jellied Veal | 6 lbs | | Decomposed |
| Beef sausages | 4 lbs | | Sour |
| Brisling | 50 tins | | Blown |
| Jelly { 12 orange } { 19x5oz } { 7 lemon } { packet } | 5 lbs | 15 ozs | Stale & Mouldy |
| Salad Cream | | 6½ ozs | Leaking & fermenting |
| Tomato Ketchup | | 7 ozs | " " " |
| Prunes (Dried) | 27 lbs | 8 ozs | Sour & Mouldy |
| Mandarin Oranges (tinned) | 3 lbs | 2 ozs | Blown & Fermented |
| Sliced Peaches (tinned) | | 15½ ozs | Leaking & Mouldy |
| Pineapple slices (Dehydrated) | 14 lbs | | Maggots (Live) |
| Cherries in syrup (tinned) | 111 lbs | 2 ozs | Blown |
| Victoria Plums (tinned) | 52 lbs | 8 ozs | Blown |
| Apricots (tinned) | 5 lbs | | Rusted & leaking cans |

326¾ lbs

I wish to express to the Council my gratitude and thanks for their help and support and also to the Medical Officer of Health, the Health Department staff, and to my colleagues in other departments, my sincere thanks for their co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C. WEBB

Sanitary Inspector.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

The Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Nottinghamshire County Council has submitted his annual report on samples taken in West Bridgford during 1952. These samples consisted of the articles named below:-

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Apricot Jam | Lung Tonic |
| Bilberries, Dried | Milk, Condensed |
| Bilberries in Syrup | Milk Powder (2 samples) |
| Breakfast Spread | Mincemeat |
| Carrots, Dehydrated | Orange Slices in Syrup |
| Chocolate Fingers | Pasley & Thyme Stuffing |
| Christmas Pudding | Peas, Tinned (2 samples) |
| Cream of Mushroom Soup | Pepper, White |
| Dates, stoned | Plums in Syrup |
| Dessert Cherries in Syrup | Red Cabbage |
| Fillets of Mackerel in pure olive oil | Salad Oil |
| Flour | Salmon & Tomato Paste |
| Fruit Cordial | Salmon Creme |
| Haslet | Shortcake |
| Ice Cream (2 samples) | Syrup of Figs |
| Kipper Snacks | Tomatoes Tinned (2 samples) |
| Lard | Whisky |

All the above 34 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and found to be genuine.

In addition 1 sample of Tomato Soup was found by the Analyst to contain 6.09 grains per pound of tin. The stock was withdrawn from sale and destroyed.

The Department Inspectors also tested 61 samples of milk two of which were found to be deficient due to natural causes.

53 samples of Pasteurised and Heat Treated milks were taken of which 2 failed to comply with the appropriate tests under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised & Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949-50.

